

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /064 W

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R 220855Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2647

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 9768

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID

SUBJECT: MILITARY LEADERS WARN AGAINST POLITICAL DISUNITY

REF: JAKARTA 09164 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. INDONESIAN MILITARY LEADERS HAVE SPOKEN OUT AGAINST THE DANGERS OF POLITICAL DISUNITY IN A SERIES OF CLEARLY ORCHESTRATED STATEMENTS. THERE ARE NO SIGNS, HOWEVER, OF MOVES TO CRACK DOWN ON STUDENTS OR PRESS, WHO HAVE SLACKENED MARKEDLY THEIR CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT AFTER EXIT OF FORMER GOVERNOR ALI SADIKIN. POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTATION SEEMS ON WHOLE TO HAVE DIMINISHED. END SUMMARY.

2. PERHAPS CARRYING OUT AN OPERATIONS CAMPAIGN CONCEIVED
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AT HEIGHT OF PRO-ALI SADIKIN CAMPAIGN BY STUDENTS AND PRESS (REFTEL), A NUMBER OF KEY MILITARY FIGURES HAVE MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS DEPLORING SIGNS OF POLITICAL DISUNITY AND WARNING OF ITS CONSEQUENCES.

A. LOUDEST SHOT WAS FIRED BY DEFENSE MINISTER PANGGABEAN, WHO PERCEIVED SIGNS OF "SYSTEMATIC, METHODICAL AND CONCEPTUAL EFFORTS TO MANIPULATE DISSATISFIED

ELEMENTS." PANGGABEAN WARNED THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD TAKE STRONG STEPS IF MOTIVATIONS UNDERLYING RECENT ACTIVITIES CONFLICTED WITH THE CONSTITUTION, INTERFERED WITH DEVELOPMENT OR THREATENED CONTINUITY OF NEW ORDER LEADERSHIP.

B. NEWLY-APPOINTED COMMANDER OF AIR FORCE'S FIFTH REGION AIR VICE MARSHAL SUTOJO JOINED IN WITH SPEECH AT JAKARTA GARRISON ROLL-CALL WARNING THAT INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE BEING EXPLOITED BY "STAGE ACTORS." ELABORATING ON A THEME FEATURED IN MOST MILITARY LEADERS' SPEECHES LATELY, SUTOJO SAID ARMED FORCES WERE DETERMINED TO PREVENT A REPETITION OF THE PHYSICAL DISTURBANCES WHICH CHARACTERIZED INDONESIA'S EARLIER HISTORY. PRESS PLAYED UP SUTOJO'S PARENTHETICAL COMMENT THAT CONSTRUCTIVE DISSENT IS, ON THE OTHER HAND, NOT ONLY PERMITTED BUT A BLESSING OF GOD.

C. FIRST TERRITORY COMMANDER LT. GEN. PONIMAN TOLD MEDAN AUDIENCES ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS THAT POLITICAL FORCES WERE ATTEMPTING TO MANIPULATE DISSATISFIED ELEMENTS IN ORDER TO DESTROY NATIONAL UNITY.

D. FINALLY, JAVA COMMANDER WIDODO STEPPED BACK INTO CENTER STAGE WITH TWO WELL-PUBLICIZED SPEECHES TO MOSLEM AUDIENCES. EMPLOYING SOCIOLOGICAL JARGON WHICH IMPRESSED SOME AND MYSTIFIED MANY OF JAKARTA'S INTELLECTUALS, WIDODO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DIFFERENT CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES TO THE NATION'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS HAD POSITIVE ASPECTS BUT WARNED THAT DISUNITY WITHIN THE NATION'S ELITE COULD BE THE STARTING POINT OF NATIONAL DISINTEGRATION.

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3. AFTER PARTING SHOT IN WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED HIS EARLY REMOVAL TO THE ELECTION VOTE IN JAKARTA, FORMER GOVERNOR ALI SADIKIN HAS TEMPORARILY FADED FROM VIEW. RUMORS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN CORRUPTION ARE BREAKING OUT AND SEEM TO BE ACCEPTED BY SOME OF HIS ERSTWHILE SUPPORTERS. THE STUDENTS HAVE FOR THE MOMENT TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO A RISE IN BUS PRICES, WHICH THEY PROTESTED THROUGH PUBLIC STATEMENTS, A CALL ON PARLIAMENT AND A POLL OF BUS PASSENGERS. BOTH STUDENTS AND SECURITY FORCES SEEM TO BE ATTEMPTING TO AVOID A DIRECT CONFRONTATION ON THIS OR OTHER ISSUES. JAKARTA'S POLITICAL TEMPERATURE SEEMS THEREFORE, TO REMAIN CONSIDERABLY BELOW THE DANGER LEVEL DESPITE THE SEEMINGLY WORRIED PROGNOSTICATIONS OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP.

NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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